

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the certified English translation of the priority document JP 2002-360634, the amendments to the specification, the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. The Invention

The present invention is directed to a method of manufacturing a printing plate material and a printing plate material having improved developability on press, improved anti-stain property and improved exposure visualization.

In one of the novel aspects of the invention, the printing plate material has an image formation layer containing thermoplastic particles, a light-to-heat conversion dye, and a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent.

C. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 1-20 are presented for further prosecution. Claims 19 and 20 have been added by this amendment.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the image formation layer contains a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent. Support for these amendments can be found in the description of "Mixture 1" at page 42, lines 7-8.

Claims 19 and 20 have been added to further define the electron providing dye precursor and the electron accepting developing agent of claims 1 and 11. Support for claims 19 and 20 can be found at page 42, lines 13-21 and page 44, lines 3-6.

D. Specification Amendments

Applicant has amended pages 42 and 43 of the application to correct minor typographical errors.

E. The Office Action

Claims 1-9 and 11-17 had been rejected as being anticipated by Maemoto (US 2003/0148207) or Sampei (US 2004/0055490). Claims 1-18 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Maemoto in view of Yanaka (US 2003/0188653). Claims 1-18 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Sampei.

1. The priority date of the present invention is prior to the US filings dates of Sampei and Yanaka

The December 12, 2002 foreign priority date of the present invention is prior to the September 3, 2003 US filing date of Sampei and the March 13, 2003 US filing date of Yanaka.

Applicant has submitted a certified English translation of the foreign priority document to perfect the claim of priority and to remove Sampei and Yanaka as prior art. Support for claims 1-20 of this application can be found in the following portions of the priority document:

<u>current application</u>	<u>priority document</u>
claim 1	claim 1
claim 2	claim 2
claim 3	claim 3
claim 4	claim 3
claim 5	par. 66
claim 6	pars. 59 and 137
claim 7	claim 4
claim 8	par. 139
claim 9	par. 139
claim 10	par. 139
claim 11	claim 1, pars. 33-50
claim 12	claim 3
claim 13	par. 66
claim 14	par. 59
claim 15	claim 4
claim 16	par. 139
claim 17	par. 139
claim 18	par. 139
claim 19	pars. 88 and 91
claim 20	pars. 88 and 91

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is entitled to the priority date and that Sampei and Yanaka are no longer prior art.

2. Maemoto does not teach or suggest an image formation layer containing a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent

As explained above, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to recite that the image formation layer contains a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent. This mixture corresponds to "Mixture 1" described at page 42 of the application.

Maemoto does not teach or suggest "Mixture 1" of the present invention recited in amended claims 1 and 11. Instead, Maemoto teaches that the image recording layer may contain a compound which generates an acid or radical by heat and a dye which discolors by the action of an acid or radical. The description in par. 240 of Maemoto corresponds to proton generating compounds, not electron generating compounds.

In addition to the above, Maemoto does not employ his acid generating compounds and dye accepting compounds in any of the Examples. Thus, Maemoto does not teach that the addition of acid generating/accepting compounds is critical. Applicant

therefore respectfully submits that Maemoto provides no teaching or suggestion to employ "Mixture 1" of amended claims 1 and 11.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentable over the teachings of Maemoto.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing and the enclosed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: Donald C Lucas
Donald C. Lucas, 31,275
Attorney for Applicant(s)
475 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel. # 212-661-8000

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